

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (month / year): March 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

96-0-13-0

Hanover

HNS.189

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 431 Brook Street

Historic Name: Josiah Mann House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca.1830

Source: White's History, Plan No. 5, Page 91

Style/Form: Gothic Revival/Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood, Aluminum

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: One car garage located in southwest corner of property adjacent to street and decorative wishing well

Major Alterations (with dates):

Replacement windows, and altered window openings, cross gable on south façade (mid-nineteenth century), aluminum clad trim, and addition to west façade

Condition: Average

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 2.42 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

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- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story, Gothic Revival style cottage has an asphalt shingled gable roof with a steeply pitched cross gable pediment at the center of the south, street-facing, façade of the building. The gable roof is extended over a low two-story addition in the northwest corner of the building and a one-story enclosed sunporch is located on the east gable end. The house has rusticated wood shingle siding and a mix of wood and aluminum clad trim. A narrow corbelled brick chimney extends from the roof peak at the center of the house. The double hung windows have all been replaced with one-over-one replacement windows.

The south façade sits at the top of a low hill at a slight angle to the street below. The steep gable-end pediment at the center of the facade is surrounded by wide projecting eaves now covered in aluminum cladding. A small double hung window at the center of the pediment appears to have retained its original wood frame with a projecting wood header and sill. Directly below the door is the front entrance which is located under a narrow projecting entrance hood. The hood has a shallow, asphalt shingled gable-end roof with a solid wood board pediment that has a shallow arch cut into its lower edge. Below, a vertical wood board door is located within a simple, painted wood frame. A small brick landing and stairs leads to a brick walkway into the yard. To either side of the entrance are large divided light picture windows. Narrow wood shutters are located on either side of the picture windows and also surround all of the double hung windows on the south façade.

The peak of the gable roof extends unbroken over the addition in the northwest corner of the west façade. The addition appears to be slightly more than half the width and length of the original house, with a saltbox style roof that is shorter on the south slope but matches the length of the north slope of the gable roof in the rear. Four double hung windows, two on each floor, are located on the south façade of the addition. Dense vegetation around the west façade of the addition limits its visibility but there appears to be two double hung windows on each floor on this façade as well.

On the west façade of the main structure, the gable-end roof projects out slightly around the surviving southeast corner of the original building with aluminum clad eaves and a narrow return in the southwest corner. A single double hung window is located on the west façade. The detailing of the east gable-end is entirely obscured by tall evergreen trees and bushes surrounding the corner of the house. A one-story, gable roofed enclosed porch is centered on the façade. The porch is enclosed with tall divided light windows with wide, paneled wood posts at the corners. Diagonal wood lattice screens its lower edge.

The house is set back from the road at the top of a low hill behind a long grass lawn that slopes gradually to the street below. A wide gravel driveway runs along the east property line ending in a low fieldstone wall adjacent to the house. A wood picket fence extends from the northeast corner of the house along the top of the wall. A set of stone steps at the center of the wall lead from the driveway into the backyard. Another low stone wall runs along part of the west side of the driveway. In the southwestern corner of the property there is a single-car garage at the end of a short asphalt paved driveway. The garage has a projecting asphalt shingled gable-end roof which extends out over the wood shingled facades. The west slope of the roof extends down over a storage

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area to the left of the garage. A large, low six-pane fixed window is located to the left of the solid wood garage door on the south façade, and a similar window is centered on the east façade of the garage. The brick front walkway ends at the center of the front lawn just before the light post. The house is surrounded by large evergreen bushes and trees. Substantial mature trees are located along the sides and to the rear of the house, with a few ornamental trees and planting beds in the front yard.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Although White's History of Hanson does not list a construction date for this house, it does state that this house was owned by J. Gardner in 1830 and by Josiah Mann Senior in 1854, and that it then passed on to E.Y Perry and "a family by name of Enos." Presumably J. Gardner was John Gardner(1799-1885) who is listed in Hanson in the 1830 U.S. Census. John Gardner married Ruth Stetson (1802-1876) in Pembroke in 1819.¹ The only additional information available on John Gardner's residency is the birth of his son, John Jr., in 1822 and the family was living in Scituate by 1840. Josiah Mann (1801-1886) was born in Pembroke to David and Betsey (Bates) Mann. He married Hannah Waterman Smith(1796-1843), daughter of Hobart and Hannah Waterman Smith in Hingham in 1826.² The couple lived in Charlestown after their marriage where Josiah presumably worked at the Navy Yard. After Hannah's death, Josiah married Mary Frothingham Curtis(1808-1898) in Charlestown in 1844. The couple had one son, Josiah Jr., in 1847 before leaving Charlestown and moving to Hanson where Josiah appears in the state and local censuses beginning in 1850. From 1850 through the 1870s, Josiah is listed as a carpenter, housewright, and shipwright, and was still listed at the age of 80 as a ship carpenter in the 1880 U.S. Census. By that time, his son, Josiah C. Mann, was living with his own family on the property. The Mann family genealogy records that "Mr. Mann is by trade a ship chandler, and for many years owned a farm in the north part of Hanson, Mass. He resides in North Hanson, with his only son (by his second wife), who is in the Hanover tack factory."³ Josiah C. (1847-1890) married Mary F. Gilbert in Hanson in 1869 and is listed as working as a tacker in both the 1870 and 1880 U.S. Censuses.

The 1856 Walling Map of Hanson confirms that a J.C. Mann was in residence here at that time, and the 1879 Walker Atlas lists J. Mann as being in residence. Josiah C. Mann did not long outlive his father and the property appears to have changed hands after his death in 1890. Edward Y. Perry owned a great deal of land in Hanson and had held a mortgage on a portion of the property under the Manns, which may explain how he came to own this property as well. The only record of an Enos in Hanson during this period is Thomas Enos of Nantucket, who married Ellen Sturtevant in Hanson in 1883 and may have rented or lived on the property for a time but does not appear to have ever owned it. Alternatively, White's reference may be the Manuel Enos Silvia, who is known to have owned the property at the turn of the century. The 1903 Richards Atlas lists a M.E. Silva in the house at that time. Manuel E. Silvia had immigrated from Portugal in 1862 and worked at various times as a barber, in the tack factory, and as a farmer. A 1900 record for the property lists it as 21 acres spanning both sides of Brook Street. While it is not clear exactly when Silvia purchased the property, there are several records of transactions purchasing additional land and selling off portions of the existing site, the earliest of which is a deed for the sale of a portion of the site in 1897 that includes Manuel Silvia's existing home on Brook Street as a reference point.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/76164312/john-gardner>

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86707704>

³ Mann Memorial, p. 118-119 <https://archive.org/details/mannmemorialreco00mann/page/118>

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Manuel Silva died in 1880, and his wife, Mary, continued to live there until she remarried in 1927. At that time Manuel's son, Anthony Silvia, sold the house to his sister, Marianna (Marion) Silvia Kelliher.⁴ Marion and her husband, Joseph, then a packer at a shoe factory, were married in 1927 and moved directly into the family home. During their ownership, the larger family farm was subdivided into separate lots in 1962 and the existing lot for 431 Brook Street was created.⁵ Marion continued to live at 431 Brook Street until 1995, when she sold the home to Thomas Blake of West Roxbury.⁶ Blake sold the property to Deirdre Donovan and Matthew Mitchell in 1996. The house was sold again in 2001 to Karen Riggs, who sold it to current owner Patricia Torgesen (also Torgerson) in 2006.

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⁴ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1990, Page 25

⁵ "Plan of Landin Hanson, Mass, owned by Marion Kelliher" dated July 21, 1962, Plan Book 23, Page 167

⁶ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 13995, Page 236

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